

**WHO warns world not to 'waste 2nd chance' to fight corona virus**

By: Chen Weihua in Brussels and China Daily

The chief of the World Health Organization said on Wednesday (March 26) that the world has squandered the first window of opportunity to defeat Covid-19 in the past two months and should not squander the second one now.

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said the world has overcome many pandemics and crises before and will overcome this one, too.

"The question is how large a price we will pay," he told a virtual news conference from Geneva.

Tedros said how many more lives will be lost will be determined by the decisions people make and the actions they take. According to the WHO, more than 16,000 people have so far died of Covid-19.

He acknowledged that the unprecedented measures taken by many countries have come at significant social and economic cost, such as closing schools and businesses, cancelling sporting events and asking people to stay home.

Some of these countries are now trying to assess when and how they will be able to ease these measures. "The answer depends on what countries do while these population-wide measures are in place," said the WHO chief.

China, which has shown such success in containing the virus, is easing measures in many cities, including a partial lifting of lockdown in Wuhan on Apr 8.

Meanwhile, United States President Donald Trump said on Tuesday that he wants the country to open up by Easter, which falls on Apr 12 this year.

Tedros reiterated that asking people to stay at home and shutting down population movement is buying time and reducing the pressure on health systems, but the measures on their own will not extinguish epidemics.

"We call on all countries who have introduced so-called 'lockdown' measures to use this time to attack the corona virus," he said. "You have created a second window of opportunity."

He listed measures that countries should take during the second window of opportunity, such as expanding, training and deploying healthcare and public health workforce; implementing a system to find every suspected case at community level; ramping up the production, capacity and availability of testing;

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(From last column) WHO warns world identifying, adapting and equipping facilities to treat and isolate patients; developing a clear plan and process to quarantine contacts; and refocusing the whole of government on suppressing and controlling Covid-19.

"These measures are the best way to suppress and stop transmission, so that when restrictions are lifted, the corona virus doesn't resurge," Tedros said.

He warned that the last thing any country needs is to open schools and businesses, only to be forced to close them again because of a resurgence.

"Aggressive measures to find, isolate, test, treat and trace are not only the best and fastest way out of extreme social and economic restrictions, they're also the best way to prevent them," he said.

"I think we squandered the first window of opportunity," Tedros said, referring to WHO's repeated stern warnings in the past two months that the window of opportunity was narrowing. He stressed that people should not squander the second window of opportunity now.

Leaders of G20 nations, which played a vital role during the 2008-09 global financial crises, will convene for a teleconference on Thursday to discuss the international response to the Covid-19 crisis.

China, which has emerged from the COVID-19 pandemic after taking draconian measures for the past two months, has dramatically ramped up its production of medical supplies for the rest of the world.

China has sent medical teams to countries such as Italy and Spain and has held some 20 videoconferences attended by more than 100 countries to share experiences.

Trip.com Group, a Chinese provider of travel services, announced on Wednesday that it is donating 1 million surgical masks to 10 countries including Italy, South Korea, Japan, the United States, Canada, Germany, France, the United Kingdom, Serbia and Australia.

We are acting with reckless indifference to our future on planet Earth

Stephen Hawking

If you've come to help me, then you're wasting your time. If you've come because your liberation is bound with mine, then let us work together.

Australian Aboriginal Elder Lilla Watson

## More Canada Can Do

By: Ed Lehman Regina Peace Council  
(Response to letter to the editor in the Leader Post)

Re: Larry Deters letter "Canada has led the way during pandemic" (March 21). Deters compares Canada and the US and correctly notes, referring to Canada, that: "Quietly and surely it has led the way with civility, science and common sense" However, there is more that Canada can do.

Canada should stop its sanctions against Venezuela, Cuba, Nicaragua, Iran and Syria. These sanctions are making the pandemic worse, weakening the international response, and thus increasing its spread into Canada. Such a step would be a welcome contribution towards a more peaceful world.

The media has reported that NATO deployment of Canadian forces in Iraq, Latvia, Ukraine, and elsewhere amounts to billions annually. The \$11 billion expenditure for nuclear weapons capable jet aircraft is still on the table.

Such waste of the public wealth of the Canadian people and it's ideologically driven foreign policy, if abandoned and recast as a genuine Canadian diplomatic and foreign policy of peace, would buy a lot of N95 masks, gloves, sanitizer, and ventilators as well as provide a guaranteed annual income to all.

Ed Lehman,  
President, Regina Peace Council

## From Across the Pond

By: Bruce Cadbury

Dear Friends and family,

I got a letter from the CEO of the Global Footprint Network today and want to share its final paragraphs and my views...

Sustainability, we have often said, will be achieved eventually — either by disaster or by design. As streets are emptied and planes are grounded, air pollution has gone down and the global carbon footprint has decreased.

This is **not** what we had in mind.

One of our core values at Global Footprint Network is intentionality. We envision a world where all thrive within the means of our planet. We work to help people make better decisions for the planet and our future.

The current Footprint contraction reflects the sudden erosion of our ability to thrive. It is a far cry from the intentional changes we strive for.

Do your part, folks. Be good to one another. We will get through this together.

### MY VIEW:

Let us start thinking about what shape we want the world to be in when this pandemic fades.

If it is "let's get back to business as usual", I think that we will be missing a massive opportunity to recalibrate our societies and economies so that they can address the challenges of the looming Climate crisis.

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## (From last column) From Across the Pond

In much the same way that the UK government looked forward in 1941 and commissioned the Beveridge Report which shaped the UK post-war world I think that the current government should look forward and give urgent priority to tearing up, significantly modifying or writing anew all current plans about global warming and the climate crisis. One of the best ways to do this will be to recycle the war-footing terminology and mindset relating to CV that we will become attuned to in the coming year(s).

If you are still reading this, I'd appreciate your views...

**Skype: Bruce JJ Cadbury (I also do Face Time and**

## Learning Garden in Grand Forks, B.C.

By: Angela Nichols

Our Learning Garden & crew want to thank those who've supported our efforts to start off this gardening year. While our spring's Open House may've been rather quiet with the air of caution around us, we are working on having the garden up & running for 2020. We are relying on community support. Please keep your eyes & ears open as we'll be sharing more information on how you may help. You can find us on Facebook: [gflearninggarden](https://www.facebook.com/gflearninggarden) or email us at: [learning.garden@boundaryagsociety.org](mailto:learning.garden@boundaryagsociety.org)

We also encourage people to start planting—be it your garden, with the community's gardens, or even in containers outside your door. Without further ado, we would like to thank the silent & invisible helpers in our community who assist us quietly without seeking recognition. We also need to put a shout out to these individuals & businesses who contribute to us in varying ways. Thank you!

*Select Office Products: Buy – Low Foods; Boundary Peace Initiative; Ananda Nichols-Bullock--Original Artwork; our inspiring volunteers, and the fantastically, curious members of the public*

### Our Mission

The Boundary Peace Initiative represents people of diverse backgrounds officially brought together in 2002 because of our mutual concern for the rise in world conflict. Our mandate is to participate in multilateral non-violent conflict resolution in support of global human rights, ecological and environmental sustainability and international law through education, sharing of information, dialogue and activism locally and globally. We encourage and seek your participation in our mutual work for true peace based on social justice, equality, accountability, integrity, honour, respect, etc in order to build a better world today and future generations.

**BPI web site: [www.boundarypeaceinitiative.org](http://www.boundarypeaceinitiative.org)**

***BPI regular meetings are suspended until at least 3 people commit to meet monthly. To commit or for info call (250) 444-0524 or (250) 442-0434 or email [L4peace@telus.net](mailto:L4peace@telus.net).***

## Sanctions and Canada

By: Don Currie

Cuba and China in addition to dealing effectively with Covid 19 in their own countries have sent doctors and health specialists and supplies to assist Italy, a NATO state that colludes with Canada and the USA in imposing economic sanctions against the governments and people of these very same countries.

Such sanctions deprive China, and especially Cuba and Venezuela of food and medical supplies falling most heavily on the working people of these countries.

Cuba and China ask for nothing in return for their humanitarian actions. Cuba has a long history of such responses to natural disasters.

Such is the difference between a socialist and capitalist morality.

I listen to all of the PM's and his ministers' speeches since this crisis began.

Chrystia Freeland deputy prime minister in one of her interviews spoke of being a mother of three as testimony to her concern for children.

She said that in the full knowledge of being one of the principal players in organizing the Lima Group, an ad hoc group of US compliant states that are imposing crippling US Canadian sanctions on Venezuela that effectively deprives the mothers and children of that country of urgently needed food and medicine, a cruel form of collective punishment of the most vulnerable in Venezuela.

In spite of their malevolence towards Venezuela the Lima Group of states is not being spared from the spread of Covid 19 which is oblivious of the politics of its victims.

The irony of 1000's of Canadians trapped in Peru, whose President is a co-conspirator with PM Trudeau in imposing sanctions on Venezuela is glaring.

**NOT A SINGLE JOURNALIST HAS THE COURAGE TO QUERY SUCH INHUMANE DOUBLE STANDARDS AND THE SANCTIONS AGAINST VENEZUELA REMAIN IN PLACE.**

The CBC has reported that the IMF of which Canada is a member just turned down the request of Venezuela for loans to get it through the current crisis.

Refusing to lift sanctions against Cuba and Venezuela will make the pandemic worse, weaken the international response and thus increase its spread in Canada.

In today's world out warn cold war narratives if not abandoned will continue to rebound on Canadians in negative and unpredictable ways.

The media has reported that NATO deployment of Canadian forces in Iraq, Latvia, Ukraine and elsewhere amounts to billions annually. The \$11 billion expenditure for nuclear weapons capable jet aircraft which must be interoperable with NATO and NORAD is still on the table.

Such waste of the public wealth of the Canadian people and it's ideologically driven foreign policy, if abandoned and recast as a genuine Canadian diplomatic and foreign

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## (From last column) Sanctions and Canada

policy, if abandoned and recast as a genuine Canadian diplomatic and foreign policy of peace would buy a lot of N95 masks, gloves, sanitizer and ventilators as well as provide a guaranteed annual income to all.

In Solidarity

Don Currie Slocan, B.C.

## Ideological cheap shot

By: Don Currie

{[https://nationalpost.com/opinion/kevin-libin-beijings-communist-regime-is-the-biggest-china-virus-threatening-our-survival?video\\_autoplay=true](https://nationalpost.com/opinion/kevin-libin-beijings-communist-regime-is-the-biggest-china-virus-threatening-our-survival?video_autoplay=true)}

Dear Mr. Klibin

I am 86 years old and have seen my share of war depression and capitalist greed.

I recall the polio epidemics of the late 1930's and 1950's when family and friends were crippled and died. I recall lining up for Salk vaccine and TB testing in school. I recall how we were taught to consider Banting and Best the discoverers of insulin as Canadian heroes, and Dr. Norman Bethune a communist, among the earliest advocates of public health care.

I also recall WW2 when family members volunteered and joined up when the whole world irrespective of ideology joined together to defeat the Hitler Axis. Sadly not before over 50 million had died, among them 26 million Soviet people, another 8 million in the Nazi industrialized mass murder of European Jews, Communists, all religions and creeds and as I discovered on a post WW2 tour of Buchenwald, Canadians.

Today there are those among us who lament that Hitler lost and those found guilty at Nuremberg and their collaborators should be exonerated because they were fighting "communism". Nazis in Latvia the Ukraine and in many European countries today brazenly parade with their Nazi regalia.

As we approach the 75 anniversary of the end of WW2 one can only wonder what the 46000 Canadians of all political stripes who died would say if they could rise up and be told they were on the wrong side in WW2?

Today I listened to the PM say that the fight against Covid 19 was global and required a global effort. There are many making comparisons to WW2 when the allies set aside differences for the main battle and against a common enemy Nazi Germany.

We had a name for those in WW2 who disguised their support for the enemy by fear mongering. We called them a "fifth column" and "Quislings".

Either you are for a Global effort to defeat Covid 19 or not and that includes whether you support the efforts of Russia, China and Cuba who are sending plane loads of supplies and health care workers to Italy, a NATO state that upholds sanctions and embargoes against them.

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## WHAT'S UP?

The April 25<sup>th</sup> conference entitled 'Creative Solutions to Climate Crisis' is rescheduled to September 19<sup>th</sup> due to COVID-19. Watch for details.

Hanneke's Place apologizes as we are postponing our Open House and Colouring Contest. We wait for the time when we can all enjoy these together! We still encourage everyone to "Spring-into-Action" by starting to plant your goodies! You are welcome to contact us anytime by e-mail at [kettlerivercommunitygarden@gmail.com](mailto:kettlerivercommunitygarden@gmail.com) or by Facebook through the Grand Forks & Boundary Regional Agricultural Society. See you soon at Hanneke's Place, where we'll be "growing together"!



Coming up soon is the BCSIPC conference hosted by the Kelowna Peace Group. Watch for details. But, this also may need to be rescheduled due to Covid-19.

The BPI welcomes your input. Articles are the author's responsibility and may not be common consensus of members. To submit articles contact Laura at 250-444-0524 or 250-442-0434 or email [L4peace@telus.net](mailto:L4peace@telus.net).

The BPI is a member of: BC Southern Interior Peace Coalition, Canadian Peace Congress, Abolition 2000, Lawyers Against the War and an affiliate of the Fellowship of Reconciliation. We work with a wide range of local and global peace, social justice and environmental groups.

### (From page 3) Ideological cheap shot

NATO countries refuse to allow Venezuelan authorities to land planes to bring their citizens home. All US sanctions against alleged enemies such as China, Russia Iran, Cuba, Venezuela, Bolivia and Syria remain in place depriving these countries of urgently needed medicines. Such measures fall most heavily on the defenceless, a form of collective punishment that is morally indefensible. One can only. Imagine what will happen in Gaza if the virus takes hold in that beleaguered enclave.

Bruce Aylward Canada's representative at the WHO has lauded China's response to Covid 19 and asserts there is much to learn from their efforts.

Of course you a "journalist" no less, are among those with encyclopedic knowledge of everything that is much greater than Dr. Aylward .

Let me say with all of the strength left in me, that you are a shill and a disgrace, and we would know what to call you and your ilk in WW2.

Don Currie,  
Slocan BC.

### Hate no one

No matter how much they've wronged you.  
Live humbly, no matter how wealthy you become.  
Think positively, no matter how hard life is.  
Give much, even if you've been given little.  
Forgive all, especially yourself.  
And never stop praying for the best for everyone.

*Anonymous.*

Pity the nation whose people are sheep  
And whose shepherds mislead them  
Pity the nation whose leaders are liars  
Pity the nation that raises not its voice  
Except to praise conquerors  
And acclaim the bully as hero  
And aims to rule the world  
By force and by torture...  
Pity the nation oh pity the people  
who allow their rights to erode  
and their freedoms to be washed away...

*Lawrence Ferlinghetti*

Voice your opinion to the Prime Minister and all MPs. Free postage: {Name of MP}, Parliament Buildings, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A6

Go to the Government of Canada website for MP contact information at <http://www.canada.gc.ca>